

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 00771

LIMDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, GW, GE, CGEN

SUBJECT: GDR CONSULAR AGREEMENTS: GDR FONMIN FISCHER

HINTS AT COMPROMISE IN PARIS

1. QUAI'S DIRECTOR CENTRAL EUROPEAN AFFAIRS PLAISANT TELLS US, WITH SOME SATISFACTION, THAT GDR FONMIN FISCHER'S CONVERSATIONS IN PARIS JANUARY 6 AND 7 SUGGEST THAT FIRM FRENCH AND 7.S. LINE ON DEFINITION OF NATIONALITY ISSUE IN GDR CONSULAR NEGOTIATIONS MAY BE BEGINNING TO BEAR FRUIT.

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2. FISCHER AND SAUVAGNARGUES APPARENTLY ENJOYED VERY

EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION OF CONSULAR NEGOTIATIONS, FOCUSING ON DEFINITION OF NATIONALITY, WHICH THEY DISCUSSED "NOT LIKE FOREIGN MINISTERS BUT LIKE DESK OFFICERS". SAUVAGNARGUES MADE PLAIN THAT FRENCH WERE NOT REPEAT NOT ATTEMPTING PREVENT GDR CONSULAR OFFICERS FROM DOING THEIR PROPER WORK IN FRANCE, I.E., WITH RESPECT PEOPLE HOLDING GDR PASSPORTS WHO SEEK A GDR CONSUL'S ASSISTANCE. AT SAME TIME, SAUVAGNARGUES REITERATED FRENCH RESOLVE NOT TO ACCEPT DEFINITION OF NATIONALITY SOUGHT BY GDR (IN SPITE SEVERAL PREDEEDENTS CITED BY FISCHER) SINCE THIS WOULD CONSTITUTE UNWARRENTED POLITICAL INTERVENTION IN INTER-GERMAN DOMAIN.

3. PLAISANT RECOUNTS THAT FISCHER PERSISTED FOR A WHILE ON GENERAL NATIONALITY THEME. TO FRENCH SURPRISE, HE THEN INDICATED THAT THERE "MAY IN FACT HAVE BEEN MISUNDERSTANDINGS IN TRANSLATION PROCESS." FISCHER THEN SUGGESTED GDR REALLY DOES NOT REPEAT NOT INSIST ON A "DEFINITION" OF NATIONALITY IN CONSULAR TEXT, BUT WOULD BE SATISFIED WITH A REFERENCE TO "PERSONS WHO PRESENT A GDR PASSPORT". IN RESPONSE EMBOFF'S QUESTION, PLAISANT SAID FISCHER SPECIFICALLY USED WORD "PRESENT" NOT WORD "HAVE" OR "POSSESS", SUGGESTING THAT GDR MAY INDEED BE PREPARED TO YIELD ON THIS CRITICAL POINT.

4. FOR PRESENT QUAI PLANS TO AWAIT RESUMPTION NEXT ROUND FRENCH-GDR CONSULAR NEGOTIATIONS IN PARIS ON FEBRUARY 9 WHERE IT INTENDS MAINTAIN RIGID OPPOSITION TO ANY RENEWED DEFINITION OF NATIONALITY DEMANDS. PLAISANT IS REASONABLY CONFIDENT HOWEVER THAT, IN LIGHT FISCHER-SAUVAGNARGUES CONVERSATION, GDR WILL IN FACT BEGIN TO RETREAT TO FORMULA HINTED AT BY FISCHER, WHICH PLAISANT THOUGHT FRENCH COULD PROBABLY ACCEPT.

5. PLAISANT SAID SUMMARY OF ABOVE HAS BEEN CONVEYED TO OTHERS IN COMMUNITY WITH REQUEST INFO BE CLOSELY HELD. HE ALSO SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED US REPS NOT REPEAT NOT MAKE INDEPENDENT USE THIS INTO, FOR EXAMPLE BY ATTEMPTING TO VERIFY IT WITH GDR. IN THIS PRESENT, MORE HOPEFUL
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CONTEXT PLAISANT BELIEVES BEST APPROACH FOR ALL CONCERNED WITH GDR CONSULAR NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE TO MAINTAIN FIRMEST POSSIBLE POSITION NATIONALITY ISSUE ALONG TRADITIONAL LINES, SO AS NOT GIVE IMPRESSION WE NOW PREPARED TO SPLIT ANY DIFFERENCES, AND SIMPLY TO WAIT UNTIL GDR NEGOTIATORS THEMSELVES COME ROUND TO APPROACH PRESAGED BY FISCHER.

6. EMBOFF EXPRESSED APPRECIATION THIS VERY USEFUL INFORMATION AND INDICATED THAT WE FOR OUR PART WILL CONTINUE TO WELCOME CONTINUING CLOSE CONSULTATIONS, SINCE NEGOTIATION OF ANY SUCH SPECIFIC FORMULA BY ANY ONE OF US IS LIKELY TO BE VIRTUALLY COMPELLING FOR OTHERS. PLAISANT FULLY AGREED, SAID HE WOULD WELCOME EARLY US REACTIONS ABOVE ACCOUNT AND WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING IF DATES FOR NEXT ROUND US TALKS HAD BEEN FINALIZED.

7. REQUESTED ACTION: WE WOULD WELCOME HAVING SOONEST EMBASSY BERLIN'S AND DEPT'S REACTIONS THESE DEVELOPMENTS TO ASSIST US IN OUR NEXT TALK WITH PLAISANT.

8. REPORT OTHER ASPECTS FISCHER'S VISIT SEPTEL.
RUSH

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